

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ANTIMONY IN THE SECOND QUARTER 1999

Prices for most forms of antimony remained steady during the second quarter of 1999. The New York dealer price for antimony published by *Platt's Metals Week* was \$0.63 to \$0.72 per pound at the beginning of the quarter and \$0.63 to \$0.70 per pound at the end of the quarter.

The price of high-tint antimony trioxide, published by *American Metal Market*, started and ended the quarter at \$0.90-\$1.05 per pound.

The price for clean antimony sulfide concentrate, published by *Metal Bulletin*, started and ended the quarter at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per metric ton unit. The price for lump antimony sulfide ore (60% antimony content) also began and ended the quarter at \$8.50 to \$9.00 per metric ton unit.

In China, reports indicated that the Government stopped the issuance of new mining licenses for antimony, tin, and tungsten from June 1, 1999, until the end of the year 2000. This was believed to be a measure to limit excess production of these metals (Ryan's Notes, 1999).

In Bolivia, Empresa Minera Unificada (EMUSA), Bolivia's largest antimony producer, has formally issued notice of layoff to over 200 of its core workforce at the Chilcobija antimony mine. The mine has been on care and maintenance since the start of the year and ore stockpiles have been used to meet its continuing contractual commitments. A toll contract with the Vinto antimony smelter runs until September, whereby EMUSA will supply Laurel Industries Co. (USA) with antimony trioxide. After that, further antimony trioxide fuming at Vinto may cease for the foreseeable future (Metal Bulletin, 1999).

References Cited

- Metal Bulletin, 1999, EMUSA lays off Chilcobija workers: Metal Bulletin, no. 8390, July 5, p. 9.
Ryan's Notes, 1999, Selenium tightness bulls prices: Ryan's Notes, v. 5, no. 24, p. 4.

TABLE 1
SALIENT ANTIMONY STATISTICS 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

	1998 p/	1999	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Production:			
Primary smelter 2/	23,700	6,200	6,190
Secondary	4,750	967	702
Imports for consumption:	34,600	7,630	8,940 3/
Ore and concentrate	2,020	123	121 3/
Metal	13,500	3,500	4,050 3/
Oxide 4/	19,100	4,010	4,770 3/
Exports:	4,830	1,210	598 3/
Metal, alloys and scrap	898	421	64 3/
Oxide 4/	3,930	788	534 3/
Consumption of primary antimony	13,300	3,580 r/	3,280
Price: Average cents per pound 5/	71.84	67.45	64.10
Stocks end of period 6/	XX	10,800 r/	13,400

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except prices.

2/ Nearly all smelter output is trioxide.

3/ Data for April and May only.

4/ Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.

5/ New York dealer price for 99.5% to 99.6% metal, c.i.f. U.S. ports.

6/ Producer and consumer stocks.

TABLE 2
INDUSTRY STOCKS OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY IN THE
UNITED STATES 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material	1999 2/	
	First quarter	Second quarter
Metal	2,570 r/	4,310
Oxide	5,280 r/	6,250
Other 3/	2,930	2,880
Total	10,800 r/	13,400

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who held 97% of the total stocks of antimony at the end of 1997.

3/ Includes ore and concentrate, sulfide, and residues.

TABLE 3
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Class of material consumed	1998 p/	1999	
		First quarter r/	Second quarter
Metal	1,810	486	291
Oxide	11,400	3,080	2,980
Other 3/	48	15	8
Total	13,300	3,580	3,280

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 79% of the total antimony in 1997.

3/ Includes sulfide and residues.

TABLE 4
INDUSTRIAL CONSUMPTION OF PRIMARY ANTIMONY, BY CLASS OF
MATERIAL PRODUCED 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Product	1998 p/	1999	
		First quarter	Second quarter
Metal:			
Bearing metals and bearings	9	1	1
Other 2/	1,800	485	226
Total	1,800	486	227
Nonmetal:			
Ceramics and glass	1,570	320	294
Plastics	1,330	425	425
Other 3/	641	199	223
Total	3,540	944	942
Flame-retardants:			
Plastics	4,650	1,270 r/	1,300
Other 4/	372	100 r/	79
Total	5,020	1,370 r/	1,380
Total reported	10,400	2,800 r/	2,550
Full industry total 5/	13,300	3,580 r/	3,280

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes ammunition, antimonial lead, cable coverings, castings, sheet and pipe, and solder.

3/ Includes ammunition primers and pigments.

4/ Includes adhesives, pigments, rubber, and textiles.

5/ Estimated 100% coverage based on reports from respondents who consumed 78% of the total antimony in 1997.

TABLE 5
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ANTIMONY, BY COUNTRY 1/

(Metric tons, antimony content)

Country	1999					January- May
	1998	First quarter	March	April	May	
Ore and concentrate:						
Australia	572	--	--	--	28	28
Austria	149	55	36	7	4	66
China	1,020	68	20	2	80	150
Other	282 r/	--	--	--	--	--
Total	2,020	123	57	9	112	244
Metal:						
Canada	225	9	--	8	--	17
China	11,700	3,250	1,260	2,230	1,620	7,090
Hong Kong	316	55	20	--	40	95
Mexico	942	127	65	142	9	278
Peru	157	52	52	--	--	52
Other	129	1	1	--	9	10
Total	13,500	3,500	1,400	2,380	1,670	7,550
Oxide:						
Belgium	1,820	550	173	250	279	1,080
Bolivia 2/	2,620	159	--	289	45	493
Chile 2/	181	124	76	--	104	228
China	8,370	1,640	743	892	894	3,430
France	183	26	17	91	7	124
Guatemala 2/	266	92	59	--	--	92
Hong Kong	420	31	31	159	81	271
Mexico	2,390	1,000	432	415	278	1,690
Netherlands	166	81	--	--	--	81
South Africa	2,240	272	88	403	543	1,220
United Kingdom	77	11	--	--	2	13
Other	386 r/	16	3	36	5	57
Total	19,100	4,010	1,620	2,530	2,240	8,780
Grand total	34,600	7,630	3,070	4,920	4,020	16,600
Other antimony compounds (gross weight)	81	29	--	7	1	37

r/ Revised.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Antimony oxide from these countries believed to be "crude" and would probably be shipped to refineries for upgrading.

Source: Bureau of the Census. Antimony content is calculated by the U.S. Geological Survey.